



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 154

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008

No. 82

## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our refuge and hope, thank You for the opportunity to make a substantive difference for good in our world.

Guide our Senators that they may discover new opportunities to fulfill Your purposes. Lord, give them the wisdom to become concerned about the things that touch Your heart, enabling them to become instruments of Your glory. Open their ears to the cries of the lost and the least in our Nation and world, as they seek to remove the shackles of the hurting. Remind them that apart from You, they can accomplish nothing of lasting significance.

And, Lord, please place Your healing Hands upon Senator EDWARD KENNEDY.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 19, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CLAIRE MCCASKILL, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. MCCASKILL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### WELL WISHES FOR SENATOR KENNEDY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I received a call early Saturday morning that Senator KENNEDY had taken ill. Since that time, we have heard only encouraging words from his doctors and his family. I spoke to Vicki, his wonderful wife, a couple hours ago. He is resting comfortably. He is having some more tests run today. He is doing very well. Vicki tells me Senator KENNEDY is not only up moving around, but over the weekend he was able to watch some movies, but, more importantly, he was able to watch some Red Sox games. I would note in passing, it cannot hurt his recovery that the Red Sox have won three games in a row.

Anyone who knows Senator KENNEDY and his tremendous work ethic realizes no one is more eager to get back to work than Senator KENNEDY.

So to my good friend, the Senator from Massachusetts, I say: Rest and get well. All of your friends and colleagues in the Senate wish you the very best and look forward to your quick return because there is a lot of work we are depending on you to do. We have a number of things, of course, we were working on together last week.

I talked to him Friday at some length. I am going to give a couple

speeches—actually three—on Wednesday because we are having celebrations here in the Capitol on the 100th birthday of Senator, Majority Leader, and President Johnson. It was interesting to hear Senator KENNEDY—who had worked with him in all of his capacities, as Senator, majority leader, Vice President, and President—some of the comments he had about President Johnson.

So we look forward to Ted being back as soon as possible.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader time, there will be a period of morning business for Senators, and they will be able to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There are no votes today, but this is going to be a very busy week. We have a certain number of things we have to do.

We are going to do as many circuit judges as we can. We will certainly at least do one. We have the budget conference report we have to complete. We hope to go to that on Thursday at about 4 o'clock. And, of course, the big one we have to do is the supplemental appropriations bill regarding the war funding in Iraq. Those things we have to complete before we leave here. The budget and the supplemental we have to finish before we leave.

As I indicated, we are going to have some things here on Wednesday in the Capitol regarding President Johnson. From 11 until 12 noon on Wednesday, there will be a time set aside on the Senate floor for tributes to the former President on the centennial of his birth.

### NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I expect the Senate will consider the nomination of Steven Agee to a Virginia seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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